Calendar No. 347

101ST CONGRESS *1st Session*	SENATE	REPORT 101-187

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION OCEAN AND COASTAL PROGRAMS AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1989

Mr. HOLLINGS, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, submitted the following

REPORT

OF THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ON

H.R. 1668

NOVEMBER 2 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 18), 1989.—Ordered to be printed

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

39-010 WASHINGTON : 1989

S263-40

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NOVEMBER 2 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 18), 1989.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HOLLINGS, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 1668]

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to which was referred the bill (H.R. 1668) to authorize appropriations for certain ocean and coastal programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

H.R. 1668 would authorize appropriations of $400,266,000 for fiscal year (FY) 1990 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) program support and certain ocean and coastal programs, including the National Ocean Pollution Planning Act, the Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act, the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and titles II and III of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972.

BACKGROUND AND NEEDS

NOAA was created by the President's Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970 to consolidate many of the Nation' civilian oceanic and atmospheric programs. The agency's broad goals include the operation of programs to: (1) manage marine resources for the economic and social good of the Nation; (2) monitor and predict weather and environmental conditions for the protection of life and property; (3) provide basic maps, charts, and surveys for safe navigation; (4) pro-

vide research to advance oceanic and atmospheric technology for the better management of the environment and the rational use of our natural resources; and (5) operate satellite systems to provide national and global information.

NOAA's management structure consists of nine staff offices (program support) and five line offices. The line offices include: (1) the National Ocean Service (NOS); (2) the National Weather Service (NWS); (3) the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); (4) the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS); and (5) the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). The programs considered in this legislation include support for the staff offices, the National Ocean Service, and certain programs in the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

The Committee strongly supports funding for NOAA to continue its current services as well as to meet the Administration's proposed budget increases. An increase of $12.4 million has been requested by the Administration for the Coastal Ocean Science Initiative. This new program, which is NOAA's first ocean-related budget initiative in eight years, is directed at increasing our understanding and ability to address coastal environmental degradation. Under NOAA's Program Support account, the Administration has proposed to increase funds for Facilities by $3.6 million. The increase in the Facilities account is necessary to fund major upkeep projects for NOAA's Western Regional Center located in Seattle, Washington, and to consolidate the 18 NOAA offices located in and around the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Overall, the Administration has requested increases of $18.5 million for program areas authorized by H.R. 1668.

In addition, the Committee recognizes the importance of NOAA's role as the Federal trustee for natural resources in marine areas. The agency's responsibilities as Federal trustee include assessing damages to coastal and marine resources from releases of oil and hazardous substances, filing claims against potentially responsible parties for the damages, and using monies recovered to restore the damaged resources.

Legislative History

H.R. 1668 was introduced in the House of Representatives on April 4, 1989. On June 29, 1989, the bill was reported to the House from the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. The bill was then jointly referred to the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and the Public Works and Transportation Committee. These committees reported the legislation to the House on August 3, 1989. On September 6, 1989 the measure was called up by the House and passed after being amended. It was received in the Senate on September 7, 1989, and referred to the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

The Committee held several hearings relating to NOAA's ocean and coastal programs. These included two hearings examining NOAA's role in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, a hearing on the ocean's role in global change, and a hearing on coastal management.

At its October 5, 1989, executive session, the committee in open session considered an amendment in the nature of a substitute to

H.R. 1668. In addition, Senator Bentsen offered an amendment to the substitute authorizing appropriations of $3 million for priority oyster disease research in FY 1990, which was adopted. The Committee then, without objection, ordered H.R. 1668 reported as amended.

Summary of Major Provisions

Authorization of appropriations for FY 1990 are provided for program support and most of the ocean and coastal programs in NOAA. The authorization levels in H.R. 1668 are based on the Administration's requested budget plus funding for NOAA programs at levels that the Senate has supported in past years. For programs which have an authorization of appropriations for FY 1990 in existing law, such as coastal zone management, the previously authorized level for FY 1990 was included in the overall authorization. In addition, funds are authorized for NOAA to fulfill the agency's responsibilities as a Federal natural resource trustee. The following chart summarizes the authorization levels in H.R. 1668.

Fiscal year 1990

[In thousand of dollars]

National Ocean Service:	
Mapping, charting, and geodesy	$47,694
Observation and assessment (includes $2.5 million for damage assessment work)	49,533
Ocean and coastal management	57,752
Subtotal	154,979
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research:	
Ocean and Great Lakes programs (includes $3 million for priority oyster research)	98,855
Program support:	
Administration and services	73,994
Facilities	4,082
Marine services	59,910
Aircraft services	8,446
Subtotal	146,432
Total	400,266

The bill authorizes $155.0 million for the programs of NOS (which includes the Coastal Zone Management Program), $98.9 million for the ocean and coastal programs in OAR (which includes the National Sea Grant College Program), and $146.4 million for program support. In addition, the bill directs the Secretary of Commerce to provide notice to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate before reprogramming any funds authorized in the Act.

Estimated Costs

In accordance with paragraph 11(a) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and section 403 of the Congressional Budget

Act of 1974, the Committee provides the following costs estimate, prepared by the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, October 18, 1989.

Hon. ERNEST F. HOLLINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office, has prepared the attached cost estimate for H.R. 1668, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Ocean and Coastal Programs Authorization Act of 1989.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

Sincerely,

ROBERT D. REISCHAUER,
Director.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

1. Bill number: H.R. 1668.

2. Bill title: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Coastal Programs Authorization Act of 1989.

3. Bill status: As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, October 5, 1989.

4. Bill purpose: H.R. 1668 would authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1990 to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The bill would authorize a total of $397 million, of which $155 million would be for the National Ocean Service, $96 million would be for ocean and Great Lakes research, and $146 million would be for program support.

5. Estimated cost to the Federal Government:

[By fiscal year, in millions of dollars]

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Authorization level	397				
Estimated outlays	270	99	20	8	

The costs of this bill would be in budget function 300.

Basis of Estimate

The estimate assumes that the full amount authorized would be appropriated for fiscal year 1990. The estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns.

6. Estimated cost to state and local governments: None

7. Estimate comparison: None.

8. Previous CBO estimate: On June 6, 1989, CBO prepared as estimate for H.R. 1668, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, April 18, 1989. That version of the bill would authorize appropriations to NOAA of $529 million for fiscal year 1990, with resulting outlays of $360 million for 1990,

$132 million for 1991, $26 million for 1992, and $11 million for 1993.

9. Estimate prepared by: Michael Sieverts.

10. Estimate approved by: James L. Blum, Assistant Director, for Budget Analysis.

Regulatory Impact Statement

In accordance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee provides the following evaluation of the regulatory impact of the legislation, as reported.

H.R. 1668, as repprted, simply authorizes appropriations to continue existing programs and will result in no additional regulations. It will thereafter have nor further effect on the number or type of individuals and businesses regulated, the economic impact of such regulation, the personal privacy of affected individuals, or the paperwork required from such individuals and businesses.

Section-by-Section Analysis

SECTION 1.—SHORT TITLE

The short title of the bill is the "National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Ocean and Coastal Programs Authorization Act of 1989."

SECTION 2.—NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

This section authorizes $154.9 million for the programs of NOS. This includes $47.7 million for the mapping, charting, and geodesy program. Mapping and charting activities provide accurate and timely marine, coastal, and aeronautical data in various map and chart formats. The geodesy program provides accurate geographic positions, elevations, and gravity values for national defense and space activities, public works, and land management. In addition, $49.5 million is included for observation and assessment, which provides timely and accurate marine observations and predictions for safe and efficient operations in the oceans, coastal areas, estuaries, and the Great Lakes. In this account, the authorization for title II of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act was increased by $2.5 million (to a total of $17 million) to enable NOAA to carry out its natural resource damage assessment and restoration activities. Finally, $57.8 million is authorized for ocean and coastal management. These programs monitor and evaluate the continued implementation of 29 State coastal management programs and promote research, protection, and education through the establishment of estuarine reserves and marine sanctuaries.

SECTION 3.—OCEAN AND GREAT LAKES RESEARCH

This section authorizes $98.9 million for NOAA's Ocean and Great Lakes Research programs. These funds support NOAA's mission to improve the prediction and assessment of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes processes and resources. Included in this amount is $3 million for priority oyster disease research.

SECTION 4.—PROGRAM SUPPORT

This section authorizes $146.4 million for program support. This includes $74 million for administration and services, $4 million for facilities, $60 million for marine services (operating the 23 major vessels of the NOAA fleet), and $8.4 million for aircraft services.

SECTION 5.—REQUIREMENT OF NOTICE OF REPROGRAMMING

This section requires the Secretary of Commerce to provide a notice to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate before reprogramming any amount authorized by this legislation. The Committee intends that the Secretary of Commerce provide these committees with a notice of reprogramming in a manner consistent with the guidelines and practices established for notifying the appropriations committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Changes in Existing Law

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee states that the bill as reported would make no change to existing law.

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